17.    (Amended)  A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein overwriting the start pointer does not require a mutex.

18.    (Amended)  A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the computer system is a multi-threaded environment and the overwriting step is performed atomically.

19.    (Amended)  A storage structure comprising

a list of entries, each entry having a next entry pointer and each next entry pointer pointing to another entry such that the next entry pointers together form a closed loop; and

an overwritable start pointer that points to an entry in the list of entries, the start pointer capable of being overwritten to point to an entry other than the entry.
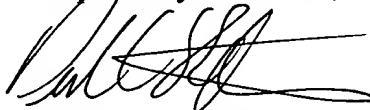
20.    (Amended)  A storage structure as claimed in claim 19, wherein the entry other than the entry is a particular entry that was searched for and found.

21.    (Amended)  A storage structure as claimed in claim 20, wherein the particular entry is searched for by examining the list of entries in turn beginning with an entry pointed to by the start pointer and continuing until the particular entry is found.

## REMARKS

By way of this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant is correcting the numbering of the claims.  Please charge or credit Deposit Account No. 13-3080 with any shortage or overpayment of the filing fee for the above noted application.  Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment.  The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

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